

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 7-12 will have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-6 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding objection and allowance of claims 1-6 in the present application. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-6.

The Examiner has objected to claims 7-12 as being of the same scope as that of claim 1-6. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's objection to claims 7-12 on this ground, nevertheless, Applicants have canceled claims 7-12 to clearly obviate the above noted objection in order to expedite prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, in view of the above noted amendments and remarks, it is believed that the objection to claims 7-12 has been overcome, and Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objection.

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

In response to the Reasons for Allowance attached to the Official Action, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present invention.

In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication of allowability, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recites a

combination of features, and that patentability of these claims is also based on the totality of the features recited therein, which define over the prior art.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection, and an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-6.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the proposed amendment is proper for entry since it merely cancels objected to claims, leaving only allowable claims pending, and it is also submitted that none of the references of record, considered alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention as recited in claims 1-6.

Accordingly, consideration of the present amendment, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action, and allowance of the present amendment and all of the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

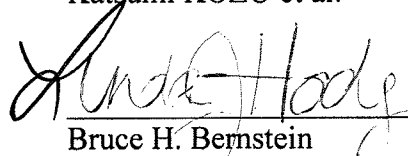
Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, which do not narrow the scope of the claims, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered cosmetic in nature, and to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

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Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
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